

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NEWS RELEASE

*700 East Fifth Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5096
Contact: Steve Canavero
Telephone: 775.687.9187*

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELEASES 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORTS OF ACCOUNTABILITY (NEVADA REPORT CARD)

Carson City, Nevada – August 14, 2009 – The Nevada Department of Education released its Annual Reports of Accountability, also known as the Nevada Report Card, today making educational data available to the public via the Internet for the sixth year. Parents and other interested parties can access school, district, and state-level information at <http://nevadareportcard.com> or from the Nevada Department of Education website at <http://www.doe.nv.gov>. Each year, the Report Card reflects data from the Nevada Department of Education, the seventeen Nevada school districts, the Nevada Department of Information Technology, the University School for Profoundly Gifted Pupils, and the seven Nevada state-sponsored charter schools.

The site continues to offer several important features including the custom search and compare features, downloadable data files for researchers, and print-ready pages for several of the reporting elements. Additionally, the site reports information regarding demographic profiles, fiscal allocations, student dropout and graduation rates, teacher attendance, parental participation, assessments, and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all Nevada public schools, school districts, and the state.

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There are several highlights for the 2008-2009 school year. Nevada's graduation rate continued to improve: the graduation rate for the Class of 2008 jumped 1.3 percentage points to 68.7% making it one of the most successful classes since 2003. Nevada continues to significantly reduce the percentage of core academic subject classes that are not taught by Highly Qualified Teachers. Over the course of four years, the percent of classes not taught by Highly Qualified teachers has dropped by 27.6% in math and 25.8% in science. To further underscore the gains in this area, the gap between the percent of core subjects not taught by Highly Qualified teachers in low and high poverty schools is at a historic low. In addition, student average daily attendance was 94.7% and is at a high level not seen since the publication of web reports in 2003.

In addition to its online functionality, the website provides the legislatively mandated Annual Reports of Accountability in print-ready format. Summaries of the web-based reports are available in Portable Document Format (PDF) at the Report Card website and will be distributed by school districts to parents and guardians of Nevada public school students during the first week of September. Parents without Internet access in their homes can visit their child's school or their local library to access this information via an Internet terminal. By making this information available to parents and the public, the Nevada Department of Education hopes the information provided will help improve the education of all students.

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